VZCZCXRO2608 PP RUEHBZ RUEHDU RUEHMR RUEHPA RUEHRN DE RUEHTRO #0588/01 2021601 DE ROBEIRO #USGG/01 2021001 ZNY CCCCC ZZH P 211601Z JUL 09 FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI TO RUERC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5059 INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1088 RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0764 RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC RHMFISS/CJTF HOA RHHFIS/CJI HOA RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC RHMFISS/CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC RUBHIAN/NOE WASHINGTON DC RUBHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0189 RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0208 RUBHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 5598

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TRIPOLI 000588

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SUBJECT: AU SUMMIT: A/S CARSON'S MEETING WITH BOTSWANA'S VICE PRESIDENT MOMPATI MERAFHE TRIPOLI 00000588 001.2 OF 002 CLASSIFIED BY: Joan Polas 1.(C) Summary: Assistant Secretary Johnnie Carson met with Botswana Vice President (VP) Mompati Merafhe on July 2, 2009 on the margins of the A

BOTSWANA STRUGGLES DURING GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS -----------

2.(C) VP Merafhe asked the Assistant Secretary for his opinion on the state of the global financial crisis and economy. Carson expressed his be 3.(C) VP Merafhe noted that Botswana was "struggling" as a result of the global recession, citing high-end tourism and the diamond industry as

4.(C) Merafhe also discussed the GOB's decision to run a budget deficit through which government spending would be used to stimulate the econom AGRICULTURAL SECTOR REFORM A HIGH PRIORITY -----

5.(C) VP Merafhe explained that the GOB has more than doubled sorghum production in the last year, increasing yields from 43,000 metric tons to 6.(C) Carson noted that the USG was in the process of launching a new, global food security initiative in which Africa would be featured promin ENERGY PRODUCTION: SEEKING SELF-SUFFICIENCY -----

7.(C) Carson asked about the status of coal production and energy resources in Botswana. Merafhe noted that the GOB was working to harness Bots DOMESTIC POLITICS -----

8.(C) When asked about domestic politics, Merafhe said he was confident about the prospects for his party in upcoming national elections to be VP MERAFHE: SOUTH AFRICA'S ZUMA IS "INTERNALLY FOCUSED" -----

9.(C) Moving to regional issues, A/S Carson asked the Vice President for his impression on the recent election of Jacob Zuma in South Africa. M

10.(C) xxxxxxxxxx A/S Carson noted that POTUS saw Zimbabwe Prime Minister Tsvangirai during his recent travel to Washington, and said that he MADAGASCAR: WAY FORWARD REMAINS UNCLEAR -----

12.(C) VP Merafhe said that Madagascar was also a "nasty situation." A/S Carson noted that the AU will repeat efforts to assemble the four poli